

REMARKS

The above-mentioned patent application, filed on 20 September 2000, presents Claims 1 through 32, inclusive. The Examiner has lodged a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121, stating the patent application presents the following distinct inventions:

Group I which presents Claims 2 through 24, inclusive, drawn to an apparatus for a hydrocarbon reforming process, classified in Class 422, subclass 189, and
Group II, which presents Claims 25 through 32, inclusive, drawn to a steam reforming process, classified in Class 423, subclass 650.

The Examiner explains the Restriction Requirement by stating that:

"Claim 1 link(s) inventions I and II. The restriction requirement between the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claim 1. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claims(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application."

Applicants elect without traverse to prosecute the invention according to Group I (Claim 1 and Claims 2 through 24, inclusive) in the present patent application. Therefore, Claims 25 through 32, inclusive, have been canceled pursuant to this restriction requirement. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the invention of Group II in a separate patent application.

The inventorship of the pending claims has been reviewed and no amendment of inventorship is required due to cancellation of the Claims of Group II drawn to the non-elected invention. Believing the application is in condition for allowance, Applicants solicit an action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,



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